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Student Elections in Peru

1. Direct elections for officers in the student directorates (DAs) of Peruvian universities were held during the month of August. For some clarifying the political positions of the various student groups, however, the elections merely emphasized the persistence of existing alliances (both personal and political) that dominate Peruvian student politics.

2. As far as can be determined (see attached list), the "government" and "opposition" students each won 12 of the 75 directorates in the balloting. More importantly, the "opposition" retained control of the majority directorates such as Law, Medicine, Engineering and Philosophy and almost certainly has sufficient strength to win the Peruvian Student Union (UP) elections when and if they are held. Even in this light, the "government" students appear to have suffered a net loss over their previous position.

3. By any analysis, this is probably true. But the finding of labels into the various DA presidencies tends to obscure a more fundamental issue, namely that it is probable that no student leader in Peruance fully supports the Castillo Franco government. At best, the "democratic" leaders align themselves with ADRI because of proximity to the UN-UP or UN-UP and regard the regime out of political expediency but do not support it. At the same student leader told the reporting officer recently, "Now you I be in favor of hunger, misery, student oppression

Enclosure List of Peruvian Directorates Presidents

Group 1

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and lack of freedom" On the other end of the political spectrum are the hard core "leftists" who possess both a deep motivation and, at least when necessary for winning an election, a strong organization. Occupying the middle ground are student leaders who are impressed more with personalities than with philosophies and align themselves accordingly with one figure or another, regardless of his political position.

### The Academic Directorate Elections

4. The BA elections in most but not all of the 30 directorates took place on August 13 with several isolated elections being held the following week. The "campaigns" were characterized by a minimum of publicity both at the various universities and in the family press. The so-called "democratic" students had impressive plans for organizing their campaign effort but, when the chips were down, both the plans and the organizations deteriorated badly. Good candidates were difficult to find and even mediocre ones often required some arm twisting before they would agree to run. The situation was further complicated because of a growing rift in the "democratic" forces between those who support UEP president, Manuel Alves and those who don't. Illustrative of the poor organization is the election in one school where the "democratic" slate was hastily put together only 48 hours before the election. By contrast, the opposition benefited from tighter organization and greater enthusiasm.

5. From the government's viewpoint, the election results were discouraging. The student liaison officer of the 7th Military Region told the Congress that the situation looked very bad and that he was sure the "leftists" would win control of the UEP if direct elections were held. He said further that some action would be necessary to prevent this. As will be seen below, action was indeed taken.

6. The "opposition" showing in the elections is actually more impressive than it would at first appear. Not only did most of the larger schools reject the "democratic" candidates but even in those schools now in the "government" column, the victory margin was often embarrassingly small. In the Economics BA at the Federal University, for example, the "opposition" lost by a mere two votes. A list of the new BA presidents, grouped according to the best estimation of their political leanings, is attached. The list was compiled from information furnished by Congress.

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### The UNE Elections

7. Realizing they would almost certainly lose the direct UNE elections scheduled for August 30 because of their poor showing in the 1964, a group of "democratic" student leaders worked out a plan (allegedly with the cooperation of the military) to postpone the elections, using the July 23 bombing of the UNE headquarters as an excuse. According to a pro-government student leader, on the evening of August 24, twenty-four of the thirty new UN presidents met and voted unanimously in favor of holding the UNE elections as scheduled. UNE president, Manuel Alves, also attended the meeting and voted in favor of the action.

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8. This same student leader told the reporting officer that, the following day, Alves and a group of "leftist" students called on Dr. Nivaldo Cabral, rector of the Federal University to inform him of the previous night's decision. The rector, who had a request from the Education Minister for a recommendation on the subject, then sent a telegram to the Minister, stating his position of the students. A few days later, the elections were officially postponed. The UNE director in Recife, at the request of the pro-government students, is said to have investigated the political climate in the universities and to have recommended postponement.

9. On September 2, the government and opposition candidates for the UNE presidency (João Sangramento and Virgilio Campos) met with the rector and asked his permission and financial support for their proposed trips to Rio where they hoped to convince the government to re-schedule the elections. Both students left Pernambuco on September 2. On September 10, Sangramento told Recife's *Diário da Manhã* that Nivaldo Cabral de Aguiar, Minister of Education had promised that UNE elections would be held this month.

### Summary

10. Both Sangramento and Campos have already begun their campaign by dropping banners on various university buildings. Campos is considered to be the front-running candidate. He is widely known in Pernambuco student circles as a "leftist" or sometimes as a communist. He has publicly denied the latter. Campos is suspected of affiliation with communist front organizations in Pernambuco since 1957, when he was a high school student. He recently returned from the United States as a participant in the S-CLC program.

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11. Senguenetti was just elected president of the National Students' Union and belongs to that "pro-government" faction which is aligned with UNP president, Maunat Aiyem. He is considered to be Aiyem's hand-picked candidate for the UNP slot and to be blindly following Aiyem's advice. Some claim, however, that Senguenetti is only using Aiyem to get the UNP presidency. As things stand now, however, he is not likely to get it.

12. Aiyem is a politically ambitious student leader whose own political ties and ambitions run rather deep. He is a city councillor in his home town and is known to be active in the ex-UNP organization. He has courted leftists during the past few months and is charged by opponents with using the UNP to launch his own political career. Many predict that Aiyem will announce his candidacy for state deputy in October.

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### List of Academic Directorate Candidates

#### ACADEMIC DIRECTORATE CANDIDATES

1. Philosophy	UP	Edson Damilho
2. Economics	UP	Antonio Ribeiro
3. Education	UP	Roger Azeite
4. Polytechnical	UP	Antonio Jose Chaves da Silva Azeite
5. Medical Sciences		Jorge Sampaio
6. School of Forestry		Roberto de Azeite Cavalcante
7. Social	UP	José Maria
8. Social Sciences		Edson Damilho
9. Law Sciences		Roberto Azeite
10. Administration	UP	Turcio Lourenço dos Santos
11. Philosophy Sciences		Edson Damilho
12. Pharmacy	UP	Roberto Azeite
13. Nursing	UP	Maria Carmelinda Gomes Lima
14. Physical Education		Maria de Jesus Damilho
15. Drawing	UP	Maria Helena Gomes da Silva

*candidate for Pres*

#### ACADEMIC DIRECTORATE CANDIDATES

1. Law	UP	Carlos Eduardo Ribeiro Pereira
2. Law	UP	Roberto Azeite
3. Engineering	UP	João Lopes Machado
4. Medicine	UP	João Ribeiro
5. Philosophy of Science		Roberto Azeite
6. Agronomy	UP	Roberto Azeite
7. Veterinary	UP	João Ribeiro
8. Fine Arts	UP	Roberto Azeite
9. Nutrition	UP	Roberto Azeite
10. Library	UP	Roberto Azeite
11. Social Services	UP	Roberto Azeite
12. Biology	UP	Roberto Azeite
13. Philosophy	UP	Roberto Azeite
14. Chemistry	UP	Roberto Azeite
15. Architecture	UP	Roberto Azeite

#### ACADEMIC DIRECTORATE (Directorate of Academic Affairs)

UP Federal University - Roberto Azeite  
UP Catholic University - João Ribeiro  
UP Rural University - Roberto Azeite

UP - Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Federal University)  
UP - Universidade Católica de Pernambuco (Catholic University)  
UP - Universidade Rural (Rural University)

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